MARVEL COMICS

DOUBLE-SIZE SPECTACULAR!

UNTOLD TALES of SPIDER-MAN '96

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1996

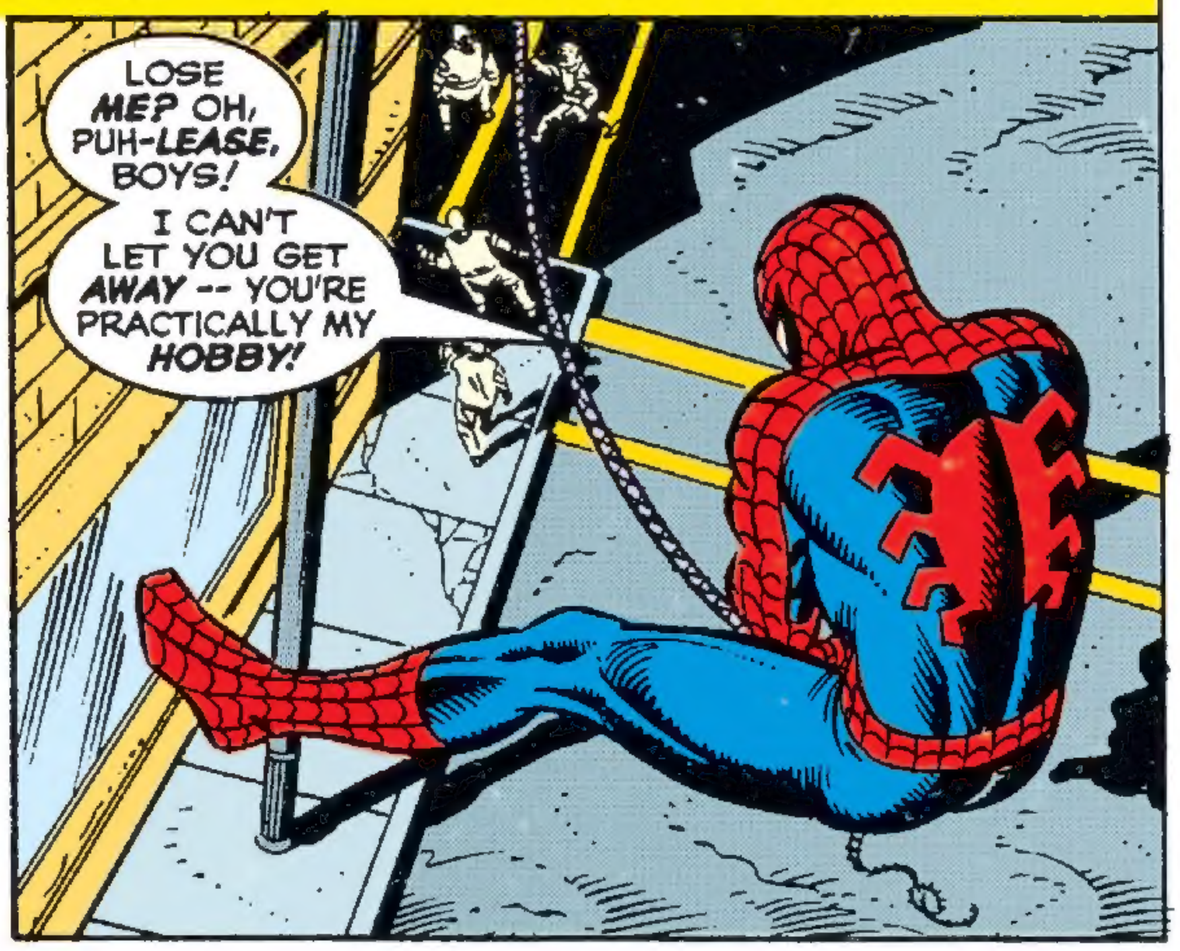
48 BIG PAGES

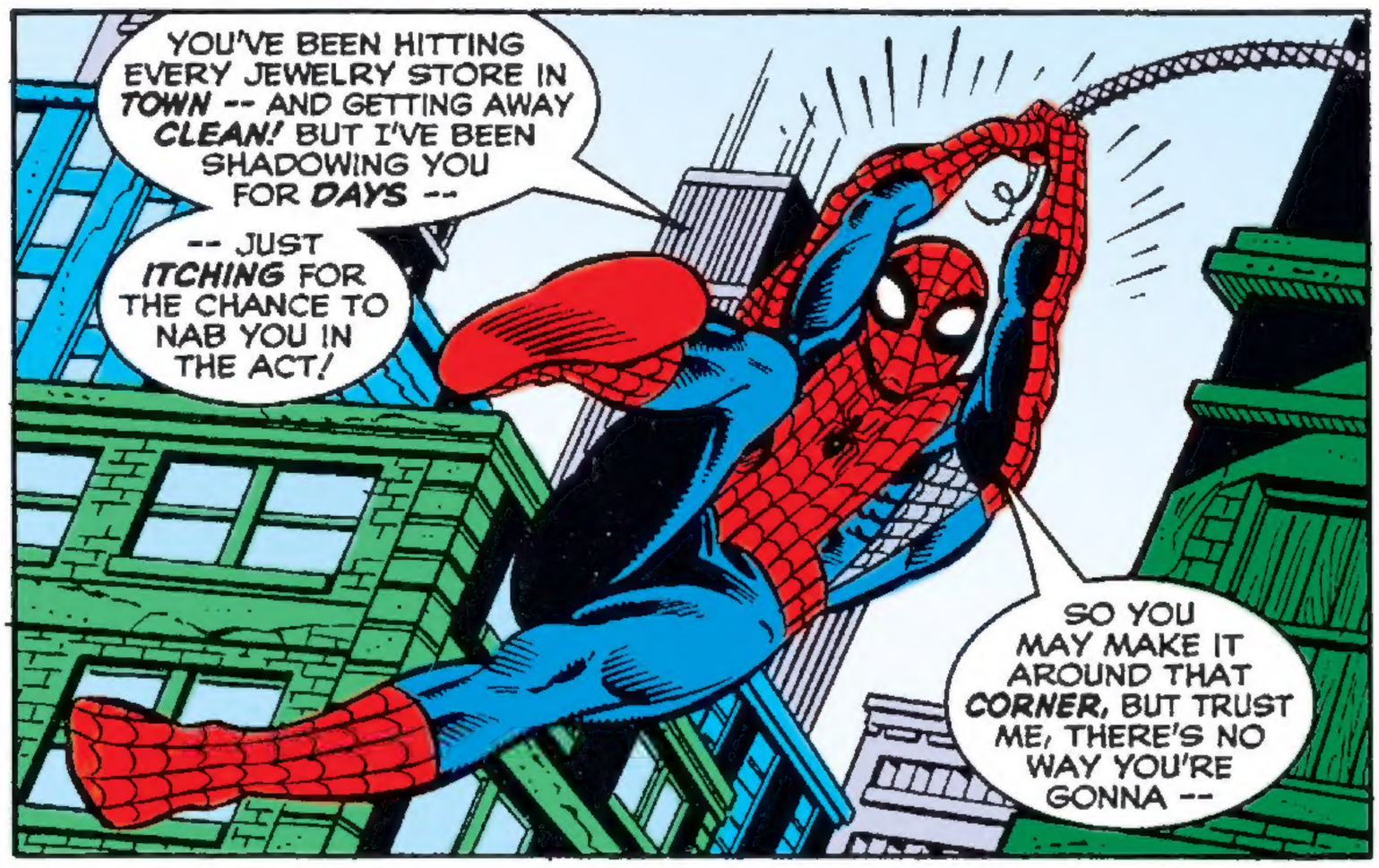
PIZZA

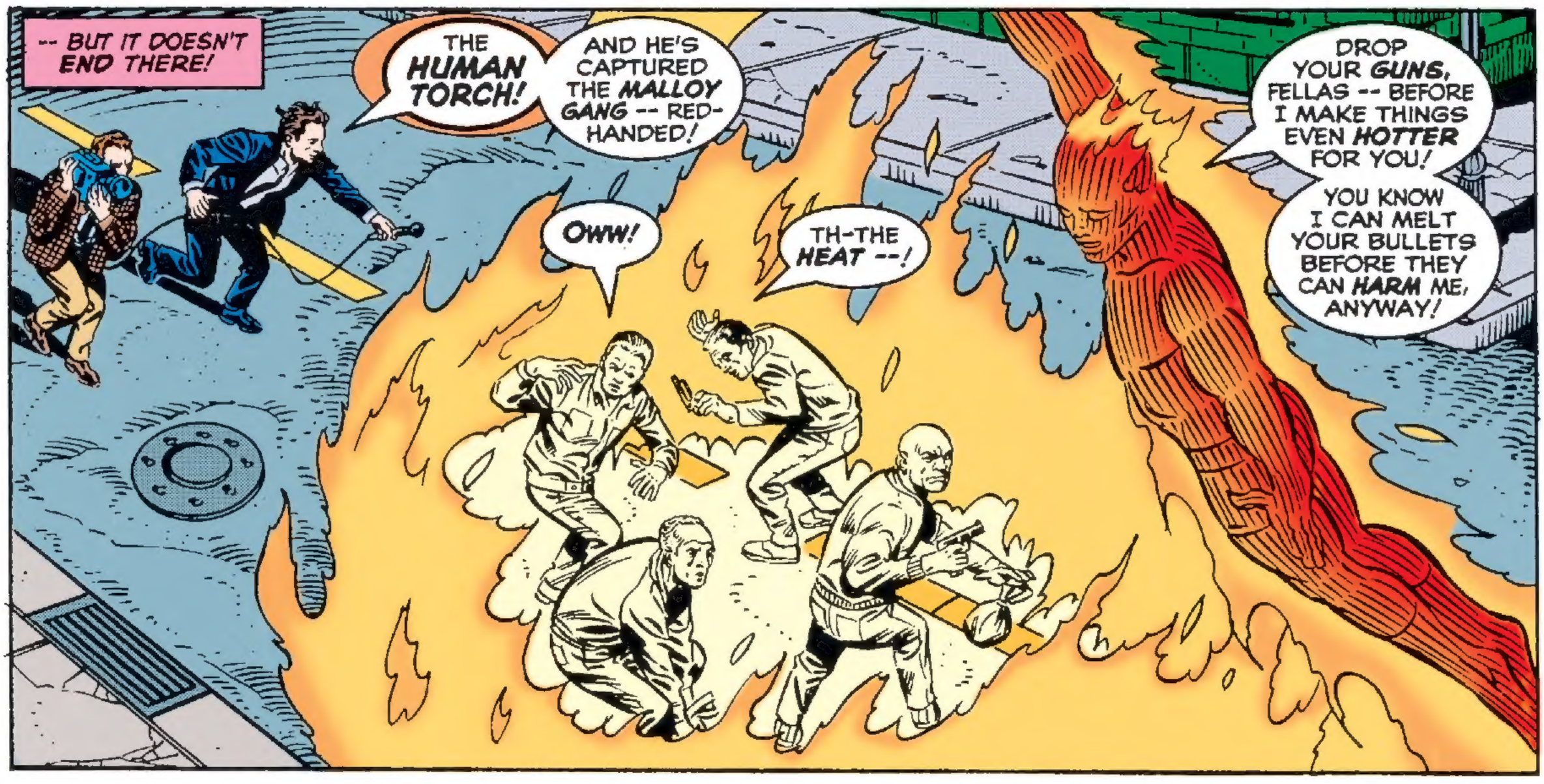
ALFRED

Bitten by a radioactive spider, high school student **Peter Parker** gained the spider's powers, and soon became the costumed crimefighter the entire world would one day come to know as **Spider-Man!** In the early days of his career, when his amazing powers were still new to him, the teenaged Spider-Man struggled to learn about himself and his abilities, while trying to lead a **normal life!** It would **not** be easy...

STAN LEE PRESENTS... UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN!




YOU'VE BEEN HITTING EVERY JEWELRY STORE IN TOWN -- AND GETTING AWAY CLEAN! BUT I'VE BEEN SHADOWING YOU FOR DAYS --
-- JUST ITCHING FOR THE CHANCE TO NAB YOU IN THE ACT!
SO YOU MAY MAKE IT AROUND THAT CORNER, BUT TRUST ME, THERE'S NO WAY YOU'RE GONNA --


-- BUT IT DOESN'T END THERE!
THE HUMAN TORCH!
AND HE'S CAPTURED THE MALLOY GANG -- RED-HANDED!
OWW!
TH-THE HEAT --!
DROP YOUR GUNS, FELLAS -- BEFORE I MAKE THINGS EVEN HOTTER FOR YOU!
YOU KNOW I CAN MELT YOUR BULLETS BEFORE THEY CAN HARM ME, ANYWAY!

-- ROUTINE *PATROL*, REALLY. BUT WHEN I SAW THEM TEARING DOWN THE STREET LIKE THAT, AND REALIZED WHO THEY *WERE* --

-- WELL, I SAW MY DUTY AND I *DID* IT!

THAT'S THE *HUMAN TORCH*, OF THE WORLD-FAMOUS *FANTASTIC FOUR*, EXPLAINING HIS *EVERYDAY HEROISM* IN HIS OWN WORDS!

*DOES THAT SWELL-HEADED SHOWOFF **HAVE** TO MUG FOR THE CAMERAS LIKE THAT? THIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN **MY** COLLAR --*

*-- AND WITH MY REP, I COULD'VE **USED** THE GOOD PRESS! STILL, I GUESS THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT **GOES** SOMET! --*

HIYA, SPIDEY! MAN, I WISH YOU COULDA SEEN THE LOOK ON YOUR *FACE!* THE WAY YOU WERE *HUFFIN'* AND *PUFFIN'* AFTER THOSE CROOKS --

-- I JUST COULDN'T RESIST SWOOPIN' DOWN AND SNATCHIN' 'EM AWAY FROM YOU! WHAT A RIOT!

WH-*WHAT?!*

YOU MEAN YOU -- YOU *KNEW* I WAS AFTER THOSE GUYS, AND YOU DELIBERATELY CUT IN?!

WHY YOU *NO-GOOD GRANDSTANDING GLORY-HOUND!* I OUGHTTA --!

HAH!

YOU OUGHTTA *WHAT*, BUG-EYES? WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR *CONGRESSMAN?* FACE IT, SPIDEY --

-- WHEN YOU GO UP AGAINST THE *HUMAN TORCH* -- YOU LOSE!

YOU DON'T HAPPEN TO KNOW A GUY NAMED *FLASH THOMPSON*, DO YOU?

HE'S *RIGHT*. WHAT CAN I *DO* -- GO TELL THOSE REPORTERS THAT I DESERVE THE CREDIT? THEY'D LAUGH IN MY FACE!

BUT I CAN'T JUST LET HIM GET *AWAY* WITH IT! THERE'S GOT TO BE *SOME* WAY I CAN WIPE THAT SMIRK OFF HIS --

-- Hmm. NOW *THERE'S* AN IDEA...

SPIDEY MIXES IT UP WITH THE FABULOUS **Fantastic Four** -- PLUS ONE -- IN:

A NIGHT *on the* TOWN!

THAT EVENING, IN THE BAXTER BUILDING, HEADQUARTERS OF THE WORLD'S MOST COLORFUL QUARTET...

Oh, REED...

KURT "THE SQUIRT" BUSIEK & MIKE "MADMAN" ALLRED
PRODUCTION

JOLTIN' JOE SINNOTT
INKS

RIGHTEOUS RICHARD STARKINGS & HIS CANNY COMICRAFTSMEN
LETTERS

SWINGIN' STEVE MATTSON
COLORS

GRINNIN' GLENN GREENBERG
ASSISTANT EDITOR

TACITURN TOM BREVOORT
EDITOR

BABY-SITTIN' BOB HARRAS
CHIEF

PLUS A GRATEFUL WIGGLE OF THE WEBS TO PUGNACIOUS PAUL DINI FOR THE SALIENT SUGGESTION THAT SPARKED THIS TITANIC TALE!

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YOU'VE RECEIVED AN INVITATION FROM YOUR OLD *ALMA MATER* -- FOR YOU TO GIVE A *SPEECH!* MAYBE WE COULD *ALL* GO --!

SUE, DARLING, I ASKED NOT TO BE DISTURBED. I'M WORKING ON A VERY *DELICATE APPARATUS* --

-- AND IF IT WORKS, WE'LL KNOW A LOT MORE ABOUT THE MOLECULAR ACTIVITY BEHIND YOUR *INVISIBILITY* AND *FORCE-FIELD* POWERS!

THAT'S *NICE,* REED --

-- BUT SOMETIMES A GIRL NEEDS MORE THAN *MOLECULES* TO KEEP HER WARM. I WAS THINKING IT COULD GIVE US SOME TIME TO BE TOGETH --

SUE, I *TOLD* YOU -- I'M VERY *BUSY* HERE! THIS EQUIPMENT IS *VERY* DELICATE, AND REQUIRES MY *FULL* CONCENTRATION!

JUST... PUT THE LETTER *DOWN,* WHATEVER IT IS, AND I'LL TALK TO YOU ABOUT IT *LATER!*

WELL! IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE *THAT* WAY ABOUT IT --!

-- JUST TESTING YOUR *REFLEXES,* BENJY!

REED'S ALWAYS SAYING WE'VE GOT TO STAY IN *FIGHTING TRIM!*

FIGHTIN' TRIM, MY *ROCKY ORANGE BUTT!* JUST LEMME GET MY *HANDS* ON YA, AND I'LL TRIM YA DOWN TA SIZE!

I WUZ *READIN'* THAT RAG!

HMPH! OF ALL THE INATTENTIVE, LUNKHEADED, *INFURIATING* --! AM I HIS GIRLFRIEND, OR HIS *SECRETARY?!*

Huh? WHAT *IS* IT, SUZIE? SOMEONE GOTCHA *UPSET?* JUST POINT OL' BASHFUL BENJY AT 'IM, AND I'LL *CLOBBER* THE BUM FOR YA!

THANKS, BOYS, BUT IT'S JUST -- WELL -- I WANTED TO TALK TO REED ABOUT GETTING A CHANCE TO SPEND SOME *TIME* TOGETHER, AND --

AND I'LL *HELP!* NOBODY BUGS *MY* SISTER AND GETS AWAY WITH IT!

-- AND HE *IGNORED* ME!

Oh, IS *THAT* ALL? HEY, THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR FALLIN' FOR THE ORIGINAL *ABSENT-MINDED PROFESSOR,* SIS!

DON'T *LISSEN* TA HIM, SUZIE! WHAT DOES A TEENAGED PUNK LIKE HIM KNOW ABOUT ROMANCE *ANYWAYS!*

AHH!

YOU JUST TAKE A LOAD OFF AN' SIMMER DOWN. YOU *KNOW* REED LOVES YOU...

NOW, IF YOU WERE STILL GA-GA OVER THAT FISH-FACED *SUB-MARINER --!*

JOHNNY!

DOES HE? WELL, HE'S SURE GOT A FUNNY WAY OF *SHOWING* IT...

AW, DON'T *BE* THAT WAY. HE'S JUST --

TAP TAP

Huh? THE *WINDOW* --?

SPIDER-MAN?

HIYA, THING! YOU'RE LOOKING VERY *SEDIMENTARY* TONIGHT!

YOU! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

I CAME TO ASK YOUR SISTER OUT TO DINNER, TORCH -- YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?

A PROBLEM? I GOT A BUCKETFUL!

SUE WOULDN'T GO OUT WITH YOU IF YOU WERE THE LAST BUG-EYED NERD ON EARTH!

Oh, YEAH?

YEAH! NOW TURN TAIL AND TODDLE OFF BEFORE I --

JOHNNY!

YOU STAY OUT OF THIS! I'M TIRED OF PEOPLE TAKING ME FOR GRANTED -- DECIDING FOR ME WHAT I WOULD AND WOULDN'T DO!

SPIDER-MAN -- I'LL BE GLAD TO GO OUT WITH YOU!

YOU -- YOU WILL?!

THESE ARE FOR ME? WHY, THEY'RE LOVELY! I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I WAS BROUGHT FLOWERS!

I, Uh -- THANKS!

WHY DON'T YOU COME BY TOMORROW NIGHT AT EIGHT TO PICK ME UP? AND DON'T BE LATE!

I, Uh -- SURE!

HOLY COW! I ONLY ASKED HER AS A WAY TO GET BACK AT THE TORCH -- BECAUSE I KNEW IT'D GET UNDER HIS SKIN!

I NEVER IMAGINED THAT --

Oh. MAN -- I'VE GOT A DATE WITH THE INVISIBLE GIRL!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I CAN'T *BELIEVE* IT! MY SISTER -- DATING *SPIDER-MAN?!*

I GOTTA SAY, I AIN'T TOO KEEN ON THE IDEA *NEITHER.* SUZIE -- ARE YOU *SURE?*

YES I *AM,* BEN -- BUT THANKS FOR PAYING ME THE COMPLIMENT OF THINKING I CAN MAKE UP *MY OWN MIND!*

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN WE RECENTLY MET SPIDER-MAN?

"YOU BOYS *FOUGHT* HIM --"

FOR THE LUVVA *PETE!* WHERE'D HE *GO?*

I'LL GIVE YOU *THREE GUESSES,* GARGOYLE!

"-- BUT HE GAVE *ME* A VALENTINE!"

FOR GOODNESS SAKE! LOOK WHAT HE *LEFT!* HE SPUN IT OUT OF HIS WEB FLUID...

...FOR *ME!*

YEAH, BUT HE STARTED ALL THAT WHEN HE MADE A PLAY FOR *MY* GIRLFRIEND!

WELL, AT LEAST HE'S *ATTENTIVE!*

MAYBE HE WON'T TAKE ME FOR *GRANTED,* LIKE *SOME* PEOPLE..!

SHEESH -- WOMEN! THEY'RE AN *ALIEN SPECIES!*

REED! YOU'D BETTER GET *OUT* HERE -- NOW!

WHAT IS IT *THIS* TIME?

HONESTLY, IT'S NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE TO GET ANY *WORK* DONE HERE!

THE NEXT DAY, AT **MIDTOWN HIGH SCHOOL**, WHICH SPIDER-MAN ATTENDS IN HIS TRUE IDENTITY OF **PETER PARKER**...

MIDTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

PARKER? PARKER?

PETER PARKER, I ASKED YOU A **QUESTION!** ARE YOU EVEN **LISTENING** TO ME?

SCIENCE PROJECTS DUE THURS.

I'VE GOT A DATE WITH THE **INVISIBLE GIRL!**

GO MIDTOWN! ...ish the Panthers!

FLASH, MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T--!

SHH, TINY -- THIS IS TOO GOOD A GAG TO **PASS UP!**

I'VE GOT A **DATE** WITH THE INVISIBLE GIRL!

KICK ME!

PETER, ARE YOU **ILL?** YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE A FEVER, BUT MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO TO THE SCHOOL **NURSE**...

I'M **FINE,** LIZ...

...JUST **FINE!**

I'VE GOT A DATE WITH THE INVISIBLE GIRL!

SHE'S GORGEOUS, SHE'S FAMOUS, SHE'S STUNNING... AND SHE'S GOING OUT WITH **ME!**

WHO **KNOWS?** MAYBE THE PARKER BAD LUCK IS FINALLY **CHANGING!**

-- NO, I'M AFRAID HE'S NOT --

Oh, PETER! *THERE* YOU ARE!

HEY, AUNT MAY. WHAT'S *UP?*

IT'S A PHONE CALL FOR YOU -- THAT NICE *BETTY BRANT!*

THANKS!

HI, BETTY -- I'VE BEEN *HOPING* TO TALK TO YOU!

BETTY'S BEEN MAD AT ME OVER SOME SILLY MISUNDERSTANDING RECENTLY -- MAYBE I CAN CLEAR IT *UP!*

I'VE BEEN FEELING BAD ABOUT SOME OF THE THINGS I *SAID*, PETER -- AND I WAS HOPING WE COULD *TALK!*

Mr. JAMESON WANTS ME TO TAKE NOTES AT A *MEETING* THIS EVENING, BUT I COULD GET OUT OF IT IF YOU WANT TO GET *TOGETHER...*

TONIGHT? WELL, I --

-- THAT IS, I, ER --

-- I CAN'T MAKE IT *TONIGHT*, BUT --

I UNDERSTAND, PETER! I HOPE YOU HAVE A GREAT TIME --

-- WITH *WHOEVER* YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH!

SLAMM

HOW LONG AGO WAS IT I THOUGHT MY LUCK MIGHT BE CHANGING? NOPE, IT'S THE SAME OLD PARKER LUCK --

-- ONLY *I* COULD HAVE A DATE WITH ONE OF THE MOST GORGEOUS WOMEN IN THE WORLD --

-- AND *STILL* FEEL LIKE A LOSER!

EIGHT P.M., ON THE DOT...

-- TOLD YOU, JOHNNY, I'M NOT GOING TO CHANGE MY MIND!

BUT, SUE --!

I WAS THINKING OF CANCELING OUT -- TELLING SUE I'D CAUGHT A COLD OR SOMETHING.

BUT ONE LOOK AT THE TORCH SQUIRMING LIKE THAT, AND...

EVENING, SUE! HI, JOHNNY, OL' PAL!

Er, MY WEBS AREN'T REALLY BUILT FOR TWO, SUE --

--BUT I SUPPOSE I COULD CARRY YOU --!

I THOUGHT WE'D TAKE ONE OF THE BREAKAWAY MODULES OF THE FANTASTICAR INSTEAD. IT MAY NOT BE AS STYLISH...

...BUT IT'LL PROBABLY BE MORE COMFORTABLE...

AND SO...

HEY, THIS IS QUITE SOME BUGGY -- A MUCH SMOOTHER RIDE THAN I'D HAVE EXPECTED!

THAT REED RICHARDS IS A BRILLIANT DESIGNER!

HE CERTAINLY IS -- AND VERY DEDICATED! IN FACT, YOU MIGHT SAY --

-- HE LOVES TINKERING AROUND IN HIS LAB MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD!

HE CAN'T GET AWAY WITH THIS! HE CAN'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!

I'VE GOT TO PUT THE KIBOSH ON THAT LOATHSOME LOTHARIO --

"-- AND I KNOW JUST HOW I'M GOING TO *DO* IT!"

SO, SPIDEY -- MAY I CALL YOU THAT? WHERE *TO?*

SURE -- I MEAN -- Huh?

WHERE ARE WE *HEADED?*

Oh, MAN -- I NEVER EVEN *THOUGHT* ABOUT IT! I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT PAST *ASKING* HER, AND AFTER SHE SAID YES I WAS SO *DAZED*...

WHERE *CAN* WE GO?

MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHERE CAN I *AFFORD* TO GO?

TELL YOU WHAT -- I'M AN *IMPULSIVE* GUY.

WHY DON'T WE JUST GO DOWN *THERE?*

PEPE'S PI

LOOKS GOOD TO *ME.* I'LL JUST PARK THE FANTASTICAR IN THE ALLEY BEHIND THE RESTAURANT...

GOOD! THE TRACKER UNIT IN THE FANTASTICAR SAYS THEY'VE STOPPED *MOVING!*

BIP

BIP

NOW I CAN PUT MY *PLAN* INTO ACTION!

ALL I'VE GOTTA DO IS FLY OUT OVER THE *ATLANTIC* --

-- BOIL THE SURFACE OVER A *PARTICULAR SPOT* --

-- AND WAIT FOR --

WHO DISTURBS THE TERRITORIAL WATERS OF *ATLANTIS?* WHO INVADES THE REALM OF *NAMOR THE FIRST?*

THE *HUMAN TORCH!* I MIGHT HAVE *GUESSED* THIS WAS SOME OF YOUR *INSOLENCE!*

HEY, *HOLD ON* THERE, SUB-MARINER! I DIDN'T COME HERE TO *FIGHT* -- I CAME 'CAUSE I NEED YOUR *HELP!*

SUE'S BEEN *KIDNAPPED,* NAMOR --

-- BY *SPIDER-MAN!*

SUSAN STORM -- A *CAPTIVE?* QUICKLY, TORCH -- TELL ME *WHERE!*

THIS TRACKING DEVICE'LL LEAD YOU RIGHT *TO* THEM, THEY'RE --

SAY *NO MORE,* HUMAN! ONLY KNOW THIS --

-- WITHIN THE HOUR, YOUR SISTER WILL BE *FREED* -- AND SPIDER-MAN *PUNISHED* FOR HIS EFFRONTERY!

SO SWEARS *PRINCE NAMOR!* SO SWEARS THE *AVENGING SON!*

Oh, MAN, THIS IS *TOO RICH* -- THIS IS GONNA BE *GREAT!*

HA HA HA HA

HE DIDN'T STOP TO WONDER WHY THE *REST* OF THE F.F. COULDN'T RESCUE HER -- OR EVEN *WHY* SPIDEY WOULD KIDNAP SUE!

HE'S STILL HUNG UP ON HER, *BIG TIME* --

"-- AN' POOR OL' SPIDEY'S NEVER GONNA KNOW WHAT *HIT* HIM!"

-- REALIZE WHO THAT *IS?*

NOT HIM -- *HER!*

THE TWO OF THEM-- *TOGETHER?*

BUT --

-- HE'S A *MENACE?* THE *BUGLE* SAYS --

-- THINK IT'S *ROMANTIC* --

-- GET MY *CAMERA* --

IT'S ALL BEEN SO *CONFUSING* --

I MEAN, I THOUGHT WHEN I FINALLY DECIDED BETWEEN *REED* AND *NAMOR*, MY TROUBLES WOULD BE OVER --

-- BUT NOW REED'S SO *DISTANT*, SO *DISTRACTED* --

HEY, AT LEAST YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT *SECRET IDENTITIES!*

IF *I'M* OUT ON AN DATE, AND SOMETHING DANGEROUS HAPPENS --

-- WELL, I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO *DITCH* HER, AND I CAN'T TELL HER *WHY!*

YES, BUT YOU GET TO SEE *NORMAL PEOPLE!* HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FEEL --

-- TORN BETWEEN AN *UNDERSEA MONARCH* AND A *BRILLIANT SCIENTIST!* HOW CAN I SAY, *"LOOK, THINK ABOUT ME FOR A CHANGE"* --

-- WHEN I KNOW THE KIND OF *RESPONSIBILITIES* THEY HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT, DAY IN AND DAY OUT? HOW CAN I --

BLAH, BLAH, *BLAH.*

HERE I AM, OUT TO DINNER WITH ONE OF THE MOST *GLAMOROUS GALS* IN THE WORLD, AND WHAT'S SHE DOING? TALKING ABOUT *OTHER GUYS.*

FACE IT, PARKER, IT'S THE STORY OF YOUR --

FEAR NOT, SUSAN STORM --

NAMOR? BUT WHAT -- WHY --?!

-- NAMOR IS HERE, AND YOU ARE SAFE NOW!

ARE YOU WELL? HAS HE HARMED YOU?

HARMED ME?

HEY --

-- HEY, BUDDY, DIDN'T YOU SEE THE SIGN WHEN YOU CAME IN?

"NO SHIRT, NO SHOES, NO SERVICE"?

BESIDES, I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DO THINGS IN ATLANTIS --

-- BUT THE LADY'S WITH ME TONIGHT, KAPISH?

YOU -- YOU DARE LAY HANDS UPON A PRINCE OF THE BLOOD?

YOU --

Pepe

KER-

-- YOU DARE?!

OWOWOWOW! ROLLED WITH THE PUNCH AT THE LAST MINUTE -- AND HE *STILL* NEARLY TOOK MY HEAD OFF! HE'S AS TOUGH AS I *HEARD!*

SO, SPIDER-MAN --

-- CONSIDERING THAT MISS STORM IS *UNHARMED*, I OFFER YOU A CHANCE TO *SAVE* YOURSELF.

SURRENDER NOW, AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE NOTHING MORE THAN A *THRASHING* FOR YOUR VILLAINY!

VILLAINY? *MOI?* SORRY, SUB-MARIGOLD --

-- BUT THE NAME OF *THIS* GAME IS --

-- *CATCH ME IF YOU CAN!*

HE'S *WAY* TOO POWERFUL -- AND HE'S OBVIOUSLY OUT OF HIS *GOURD!* I'VE GOT TO KEEP HIM AWAY FROM SUE AT ALL *COSTS!*

Eh? YOU *FLEE?*

YEAH, I FLEE -- LIKE A *LITTLE BUNNY COWARD!*

COME ON, KEEP *UP*, WILLYA?!

VERY WELL. BUT ONCE I *CATCH* YOU --

-- YOU SHALL FEEL THE *FULL MEASURE* OF MY WRATH!

SIGH *MEN.*

I DON'T KNOW WHAT NAMOR IS *DOING* HERE, BUT THEY'RE ALREADY OUT OF *EARSHOT* -- WHICH DOESN'T GIVE ME MUCH CHANCE TO FIND OUT.

SPIDER-MAN PROBABLY THINKS HE'S *HELPING*, BY LEADING HIM AWAY FROM ME --

-- THE ONE PERSON WHO STANDS A CHANCE OF *CALMING HIM DOWN.*

Oh, WELL. BEFORE THOSE TWO WRECK THE CITY --

4

-- I'D BETTER CALL THE *OTHERS.*

THAT OUGHT TO BE *FAR ENOUGH!* TIME TO STOP RUNNING --

Eh? *MISSED* --?!

-- AND GIVE NAMOR HERE --

-- A *TASTE OF THE OL' SPIDER-STRENGTH!*

HOLD *TIGHT,* BRIGHT-EYES -- IT'LL ONLY HURT FOR A *MINUTE!*

WHRAKK

UHH!

Uh-Oh! THAT PUNCH WOULD HAVE STAGGERED THE *LIZARD!* BUT IT LOOKS LIKE ALL I'VE DONE --

YOU STRIKE WITH THE SPEED OF A *BARRACUDA,* SPIDER-MAN --

-- IS MADE HIM *ANGRIER!*

-- BUT NO CREATURE -- *ABOVE* OR *BELOW* THE WAVES -- IS A MATCH FOR THE *SUB-MARINER!*

WHOA, BIG GUY, YOU MADE YOUR POINT! I DON'T SUPPOSE WE COULD SIT DOWN AND TALK THIS O --

-- VUHH!

NEVER! THE TIME FOR TALK ENDED WHEN YOU KIDNAPPED SUSAN STORM, MISCREANT! NOW ALL THAT REMAINS IS --

-- Eh? MISSED AGAIN?!

YEAH, US "SPEED OF A BARRACUDA" GUYS CAN BE DOWNRIGHT ANNOYING, Huh?

TELL YOU WHAT, LET ME GIVE YOU A HELPING HAND --

KRAM

-- AND WE'LL SEE HOW YOU DO --

-- IN THE "FACE LIKE A WRECKING BALL" CATEGORY!

BAD NEWS! I'D HOPED THAT WOULD RATTLE HIM ENOUGH TO TALK SOME SENSE INTO HIM -- BUT HE'S BARELY FAZED!

I'M NOT SURE HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN STAY AHEAD OF HIM. I'M FASTER THAN HE IS -- BUT HE'S MISSING BY LESS AND LESS OF A MARGIN!

GOTTA KEEP HIM ON THE RUN, TRY TO WEAR HIM OUT -- UNTIL I CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO LET HIM KNOW I'M NOT THE LOWLIFE HE THINKS!

KIDNAPPED SUE, Huh?

I'M BEGINNING TO SMELL A RAT HERE --

"-- OR MAYBE A *TORCH!*"

BOY, WHAT A *MESS!* SOME HOT DATE THAT *SPIDEY* TURNED OUT TO BE, Eh?

JOHNNY, YOU'RE NOT *HELPING!*

-- AN' *WHAM!* RIGHT THROUGH MY *WINDOW!*

WELL, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SEND THE REPAIR BILL TO THE *FANTASTIC FOUR*, Mr. PANDOLINI. WE'RE TERRIBLY *SORRY* FOR THE --

ARE YOU *KIDDING?* MY INSURANCE, SHE'LL TAKE *CARE* OF THIS -- AN' WITH THE *PUBLICITY* IT BRINGS --

-- I'LL BE TURNING CUSTOMERS *AWAY!* THIS IS BEST THING EVER *HAPPEN'* TO ME! ALREADY, I RENAME THE PLACE -- *PIZZA FANTASTICO!*

WHAT ARE WE HANGIN' *AROUND* FOR, SUZIE? I'M ITCHING TO GET *GOIN'* -- TO GIVE THAT FISH-FACED FREAK SOME *WALL-TO-WALL COUNSELING!*

IF HE THINKS HE CAN JUST *BUST IN* ON YOU --

I CAN'T BE *SURE*, BEN -- BUT FROM WHAT HE SAID, I DON'T THINK HE WAS *ATTACKING.*

I THINK HE WANTED TO *HELP* ME --!

Oh. MAN -- THIS IS *TOO MUCH!* "WANTED TO HELP YOU!"

HA HA HA HA HA HA

PRICELESS!

Ah, THAT IS -- I MEAN --

DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING YOU SHOULD BE SHARING WITH US, JOHNNY?

Er, WELL -- THAT IS --

-- Y'SEE -- -- IT'S LIKE *THIS* --

KRASH

YOW! YOU'RE NOT SO SLOW YOURSELF, FELLA!

AND THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A PLEASANT EVENING! IT'S ALL I CAN DO JUST TO STAY OUT OF HIS WAY!

HEY! DOWN THERE -- IT'S JONAH AND BETTY!

SHEESH -- LIKE I NEEDED A REMINDER THAT IF I HAD ANY BRAINS, I'D BE OUT WITH BETTY INSTEAD OF GETTING MY HEAD KICKED IN.

IF ONLY I HADN'T...

KRAK

UKH!

I KNOW NOT WHAT HAS DISTURBED YOUR CONCENTRATION, VILLAIN --

-- BUT NAMOR THE FIRST SHALL GRANT NO MERCY! YOU SHALL PAY FOR YOUR EVIL ACTS -- AND PAY MOST DEARLY!

"VILLAIN" THIS, "VILLAIN" THAT..

I'M GETTING REALLY TIRED OF HEARING THAT...

MISTER JAMESON! LOOK!

IT'S SPIDER-MAN! SPYING ON ME, NO DOUBT, THE WALL-CRAWLING WEASEL!

HE CAN'T STAND THAT I PRINT THE TRUTH ABOUT HIM, SO HE'S OUT TO GET ME!

SHRACKKK

Oh, MAN. THAT LOOKS HEAVY. I BET THAT'S HEAVY.

LOOK, NAMOR, I NEVER KIDNAPPED ANYONE. I'M ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS, HONEST. AND MY HEAD'S KILLING ME. CAN'T WE JUST --

SHRASH

LIES! YOU SEEK TO USE *HONEYED WORDS* WHERE STRENGTH OF ARMS HAS *FAILED!* BUT POSEIDON *HIMSELF* COULD NOT SWAY ME --

-- COULD NOT *SAVE YOU!*

Oh, *NO!* NAMOR CAN'T SEE THEM FROM WHERE HE'S STANDING, BUT THAT CHUNK OF *BRICK AND MORTAR* -- IT'S HEADED RIGHT FOR --

-- *BETTY!*

Mr. *JAMESON!*

THWIPP THWIPP

HELP! SAVE ME! I'M TOO *IMPORTANT* TO DIE!

I'M EXHAUSTED -- CAN BARELY LIFT MY *ARMS!* BUT I'VE GOT TO SNAG THAT THING WITH MY *WEBBING!* SNAG IT --

-- AND *SNAP* IT AWAY, BEFORE IT *SMASHES INTO* THEM! Oh, GOD -- IF BETTY'S HURT BECAUSE OF *ME* --!

Eh --?

SNAP

TAKK

SPIDER-MAN! HE -- HE *SAVED* US!

MISSED US IS MORE LIKE IT! DIDN'T YOU SEE HOW HE TRIED TO *DROP* THAT THING ON US --

-- AND IF NOT FOR HIS *INCOMPETENCE,* HE'D HAVE BURIED US *ALIVE!*

YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THE *LAST* OF THIS, YOU MASKED MENACE! YOU CAN'T TRY TO KILL *J. JONAH JAMESON* AND EXPECT TO GET AWAY WITH IT!

I'LL MOBILIZE THE *MEDIA* -- THE *POLICE!* I'LL SEE YOU *EXECUTED* FOR THIS!

SPIDER-MAN --

SHE'S *ALL RIGHT.* SHE'S *ALL RIGHT.* Oh, MAN, I *DID* IT...

YOU SAVED THOSE HUMANS' *LIVES,* SPIDER-MAN. EVEN THOUGH IT EXPOSED YOUR BACK TO *ATTACK.*

YOU SHOW HONOR AND *COURAGE* --

-- AND PERHAPS I HAVE *MISJUDGED*--

MISJUDGED? I'LL SAY YOU MISJUDGED ME, PAL! AND YOU ALMOST KILLED A FRIEND OF MINE *DOING* IT!

NOW IT'S *MY* TURN!

AND I'M GONNA *MISJUDGE* YOU *STRAIGHT INTO THE MIDDLE OF* --

BOOOF

Huh?!

SOME SORT OF -- *INVISIBLE BARRIER* BETWEEN US!

THAT CAN *ONLY* BE --

THAT'S RIGHT, NAMOR -- IT'S *US!* YOU'VE GOT TO *STOP* THIS -- YOU'RE MAKING A *TERRIBLE MISTAKE!*

AND SO, ONE HURRIED EXPLANATION LATER...

AW, C'MON ,SPIDEY, LIGHTEN UP. IT ALL ENDED OKAY, RIGHT? AN' NOTHIN' GOT CLOBBERED THAT CAN'T BE FIXED...

HMF!

I BID YOU ADIEU, SUSAN, WITH MY APOLOGIES FOR MY UNWITTING PART IN ALL THIS.

AS EVER, THE COURT OF ATLANTIS CONSIDERS YOU... AN HONORED FRIEND.

THANK YOU, NAMOR. I KNOW YOU WERE ONLY ACTING OUT OF CONCERN.

Ah, SUE... I'D LIKE TO APOLOGIZE TOO, FOR BEING SHORT WITH YOU BEFORE.

I HAVE BEEN NEGLECTING YOU, AND I'M SORRY. I THINK THE TRIP TO STATE U. IS JUST WHAT WE NEED.

I'M GLAD, REED...

OKAY, OKAY, SO YOU'RE STEAMED. BUT LOOK AT IT THIS WAY...

...AT LEAST LIFE AIN'T DULL, HUH?

FRANKLY, THING, I'D WELCOME A LITTLE DULLNESS, RIGHT NOW!

WELL, ANYWAY, AT LEAST YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSON!

NOBODY MESSES WITH THE HUMAN TORCH!

CRIPES, TORCH...

YOU REALLY ARE A BLOCKHEAD, AREN'T YOU?

Huh?

WHAT A WASTE! AT LEAST SUE WAS NICE ABOUT IT ALL --

-- BUT THERE'S JUST NO GETTING THROUGH TO THE TORCH! NOT UNLESS...

...Hmmm...

NINETY MINUTES OR SO LATER, IN THE QUIET FOREST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD THAT PETER PARKER CALLS HOME...

...HM HMM-HM HARD DAY'S NIGHT...HMM HM-HM WORKIN' LIKE A DOG...

HI, AUNT MAY. YOU REALLY DIDN'T HAVE TO WAIT UP FOR ME...

Oh, I JUST LIKE TO KNOW YOU'RE HOME SAFE. HOW WAS YOUR EVENING?

PRETTY TYPICAL, ACTUALLY.

THAT'S NICE. YOU GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP, THEN --

-- AND IN THE MORNING I'LL MAKE YOU YOUR FAVORITE FOR BREAKFAST -- WHEATCAKES!

THAT'D BE GREAT, AUNT MAY.

ROOM

I DIDN'T MENTION THAT "PRETTY TYPICAL," FOR ME, MEANS "LOUSY."

BUT SOMEHOW, I HAVE THE FEELING THE TORCH WON'T BE BOTHERING ME FOR A WHILE...

AND LATER STILL, IN GLENVILLE, LONG ISLAND, AT THE HOME SHARED BY SUSAN AND JOHNNY STORM...

THAT WAS NICE OF REED, TO TAKE US ALL OUT FOR ICE CREAM -- ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING HOW MUCH BEN ATE!

BUT YOU, JOHNNY --

-- YOU'VE GOT TO STOP BEING SO IRRESPONSIBLE! OF ALL THE RECKLESS, DANGEROUS STUNTS TO PULL --!

AW, C'MON, SIS --

-- NOBODY GOT *HURT*, RIGHT? SO WHAT'S THE *PROBLEM?*

I'M GONNA TINKER WITH MY NEW *HOT-ROD* FOR A WHILE. IF *DOC DOOM* ATTACKS, I'LL BE IN --

"-- THE GARAGE."

Huh? WHERE'S MY *CAR?*

AND -- WHAT'S THIS *NOTE* --?

Torch --
My webbing dissolves in an hour. I was here at 10:30. Look up and ask yourself what time it is.
-- Spidey

Huh? BUT IT'S --

Huh?!

KRASH!

AUUGGGHH!

THE END

Shadowcat